

The TRAIL BLAZER

Since 1927

VOLUME LXXXIX, NUMBER 2

FEB. 7, 2008

MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

WWW.TRAILBLAZERONLINE.NET

Professor tells story of fossil roots
CAMPUS LIFE PAGE 5

Budget cuts could mean fewer, larger RECEPTIONS

FEB 08 2008

CAMPUS CARROLL LIBRARY

MSU ties 30-year record

SPORTS PAGE 8

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Morehead, KY 40301
Permit No. 55

ROTC program grieves loss of teacher

SARAH PERRY—Editor

Maj. Hollis "Wayne" Isham, 50, an MSU assistant professor of military science, died in his Lexington home Jan. 30.

Maj. Maxwell Ammons, chair of the MSU Department of Military Science, said Isham died of heart failure following a virus that affected his heart.

Isham left work early Jan. 29 complaining of flu-like symptoms, Ammons said. Isham did not show up for work Jan. 30 and police found him dead after they were contacted by MSU.

"He just drifted off to sleep and didn't wake up," Ammons said.

Isham's death is expected to have a lasting effect on the MSU's Department of Military Science.

Ammons said Isham was an integral to the department because he had been teaching there longer than anyone. Most military professors are active duty and they come and go every few years. Isham taught at MSU for nine years.

During his time at MSU, Isham connected with students, taught the basic 100- and 200-level courses and served as a mentor, Ammons said.

"He spent a lot of time outside class mentoring, from class counseling to career counseling, family issues - the whole gamut," Ammons said. "Students just loved him."



ROTC Cadets bow their heads during a memorial service for Maj. Hollis "Wayne" Isham, a military science professor who died Jan. 30 in his Lexington home.

Isham was a very "professional" officer, but also was very approachable, Ammons said. He was easy to talk to, his classes were informative and fun and he provided a concrete sounding board for students.

"He didn't have a lot of tolerance for students who didn't try and didn't care," Ammons said. "But for those who did care... he laughed and had a great time with them, but also said,

"This is what we need to talk about."

When Ammons began his duties as department chair seven months ago, he was a stranger to the department. He said right away, Isham helped him around campus and introduced him to faculty and staff.

One of Isham's most respected qualities was his dedication to the military and his family, Ammons said. Isham grew up in Harrodsburg

and lived in Lexington to help care for his parents. He drove to and from class every day.

Ammons said Isham was a highly qualified serviceman who could have held higher military positions if he had wanted. He served as an intelligence officer in Taskforce Aviation, spent time in Panama, worked with the Pentagon and worked with the Defense Intelligence Agency in

Washington, D.C. for four years.

Because he was dedicated to the Morehead community, MSU's Department of Military Science and wanted to be near his family, he chose to work directly with the ROTC program at MSU, Ammons said.

"He had a profound love for the university and military science department here," Ammons said.

Cadet Josh Preston said Isham was "invested" in his students' progress and wanted to help them as much as possible. He described Isham as "intelligent, reserved and private," and very "caring" about his students.

"He was always willing to talk when any of his students had problems and would try his best to help them," Preston said. "He will be greatly missed by us all." Jill Hamlin met Isham a couple semesters ago when she was interested in joining the ROTC program. Hamlin wasn't able to enlist but Isham had a lasting impression.

"He was very involved with future cadets seeking information," she said. "And I could tell he really loved what he was doing."

Isham also impressed her because he was so approachable.

"I remember he sat down to talk to

SEE LOSS - PAGE 2

Calendar revised to provide break

ALEXIS DAMON—Managing Editor

MSU President Wayne Andrews announced Jan. 23 that beginning in fall 2008, students will be granted a two-day fall break. Next semester the two-day break will be on Oct. 9 and Oct. 10, during the week following mid-term exams.

MSU Provost Karla Hughes said the Student Government Association representatives and other administrators worked closely to research other university calendars and began the process to have a fall break instituted at MSU.

Neil Arnett, SGA chair for campus involvement, said students have voiced continually that a fall break was needed, especially after reading day was taken away.

Reading day took place on Wednesday of each exam week, providing students with a break halfway through the week to study and relax. It was removed from the calendar in fall 2006 after problems occurred during a heavily attended student party held the night before reading day.

Arnett said the fall break is needed because of the long stretch of time between Labor Day and Thanksgiving without any break from classes.

Once the idea was presented to administrators, a task force made up of students, faculty and staff was appointed to examine the possibility of a fall break. Several possibilities were explored, including creating a new final exam schedule and a "study week" that would prohibit any major exams during the week prior to final exams. After the Task Force sent their proposals to the President's Cabinet, the administration chose to offer students a fall break along with a new exam schedule.

Brian Gay, SGA president, said the exam schedule was changed to allow more blocks of free time. No finals will be scheduled on Monday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and on Friday

SEE BREAK - PAGE 2

Career Services struggles with lack of funds and staff

SARAH PERRY—Editor

Since Career Services Director Julia Hawkins arrived at Morehead State University nearly two years ago, the office has been revamped, a new Web site for Career Services is up and running, an online job database has been introduced and weekly career workshops have been implemented. And Hawkins is responsible for all this.

At most other schools around the state, career services departments are comprised of at least five full-time staff members. Hawkins said across the river at Shawnee State University, which has just 3,500 students, the career center has two full-time workers and four student workers. At MSU, which has an enrollment of more than 9,000 students, Hawkins is the department, other than a part-time secretary and one or two student interns assigned to her from the Department of Communication and Theatre.

Hawkins said she previously worked at the University of Kentucky, which has one of the top career centers in the nation. She came to MSU knowing work needed to be done, but said "things aren't moving the way they should."

Because she is so understaffed, she doesn't have time to search for employers to bring to career fairs or go to all the MSU 101 classes to explain how she can benefit students. And since her annual budget is just \$7,000 and funding is tight for now, she is not properly equipped with computers.

Hawkins said her job duties include testing and assessing students for career fitting, providing career counseling, giving workshops, helping students with job

searches, presenting to MSU 101 classes, working with departments to help make them aware of students' needs and networking and recruiting employers.

"I was hired as the director of career services to build a program for what-ever students needed to get a job," Hawkins said.

Lacey Conn was Hawkins' intern - last semester. Conn said she was "shocked" when she went for her first interview to discover Hawkins was the only person working in the department.

Hawkins said Conn was a tremendous help and presented to 12 MSU 101 classes and reached

more than 200 students. Conn has helped the office become more visible to students through press releases, flyers and posters.

Conn said Hawkins has a huge job load and there should be at

"I feel like, with the resources we have, we're very effective but we can only be spread so thin. At some point in time you have to stop and think you have to do fewer things and do them more efficiently."

—Lacey Conn
Career Services Intern

Swanson conducted. Conn said they found that many students wanted to use Career Services divided up into departments. That way, each department could pro-

vide more specialized knowledge for different majors and careers.

Conn said many times, Hawkins has been too busy to do everything the job required.

"There have been times when she was unable to speak at class presentations or to do workshops due to other commitments, or other times when she was unable to do one-on-one with students," Conn said.

Conn the center could suffer if another person is not hired.

"I feel like, with the resources we have, we're very effective but we can only be spread so thin," Conn said. "At some point in time you have to stop and think you have to do fewer things and do them more efficiently."

Part-time Administrative Secretary Rhonda Crisp is also a big help to the department. Conn

SEE CAREER - PAGE 2



Career Services Director Julia Hawkins strives to provide students with adequate career guidance with a meager annual budget.

EDITORIAL

Budget cuts could mean fewer, larger classes

Public universities and K-12 schools across the state could soon feel the effect of Gov. Steve Beshear's proposed budget. Morehead State University, and other state-funded colleges are already reducing operating budgets by 3 percent for the remainder of this academic year, a total of \$1.4 million for MSU, and the schools are preparing for a drastic 12-percent cut for the next fiscal year.

These cuts would deeply impact the future of higher education in the Commonwealth. President Wayne Andrews has spoken to the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Education and protested the cuts, saying students would be "facing fewer but larger classes in fewer programs at fewer locations and at a higher cost with fewer services."

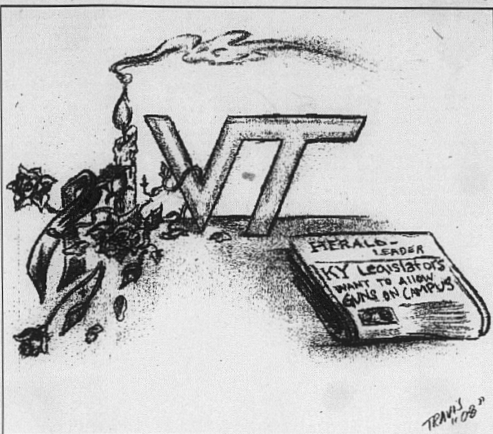
Among classes likely to be cut are small enrollment classes. Many of these classes are upper division, specialized courses that provide vital knowledge and skills development essential for students' success in their chosen career fields. Cutting these courses or doubling their enrollment will affect the quality of MSU's programs, the quality of education students receive, and the ability of MSU students to compete in the job marketplace.

Fewer classes offered, paired with fewer instructors dealing with larger classes in each program, means professors and students all will feel the impact. Professors will have less time to devote to each student who relies on each professor for guidance, information and skills building. Instructors overcome by papers to grade, will see their effectiveness impaired, again hindering student learning.

The Council on Postsecondary Education is encouraging institutions to face up to the challenge of preparing students for an ever-increasing technological society, but MSU cannot do this with decreased funding.

The state's government leaders are attempting to deal with the negative fallout created by the budget crisis and impending cuts, but it appears the governor is prepared to force higher education to shoulder the bulk of the burden.

The solution Gov. Beshear has come up with to balance Kentucky's budget will severely weaken the state's strongest safety net for preventing its citizens from slipping further into an increasingly bleak future.



Commentary Students require meeting rooms



Alexis Dawson
Managing Editor

The purpose of the Allen Dornas University Center is to provide students, organizations and all members of the campus community with a gathering place - a place to eat, lounge, socialize and hold meetings. Although ADUC accommodates most events, the number of student organizations often makes it necessary for groups to use other campus buildings.

In order to reserve any room on campus, students

would (unintentionally) fill out a form requesting a room for a social function. The social form provides the university with general information about the group using the room, such as who is in charge of the event, how many people are attending, and if the group requires any special set up, such as a projector.

The form also allows the university to deny an organization or group of people use of a room on campus, which has not been a problem for most.

The problem groups complain about most is that rooms are often double booked

or not booked at the time scheduled. Groups often have to work around each other or search for a different room when they show up for a reserved room and find another group also has reserved the room for the same date and time.

Also, doors often are locked, and someone must call Public Safety to open the door. Then the group must prove they requested it.

In some cases, building managers do not approve of the conditions in which a room has been left and refuse all groups access to a facility. While it is legitimate to ban use by those who have misused

a room, all groups should not be punished for the misdeeds of some.

Members of an organization should have to worry about a facility they have reserved being double booked. They should not have to waste valuable meeting time waiting for campus security to show up to open a room they have reserved according to policy, not be treated like criminals during the process.

The MSU campus has been developed to accommodate students, and students pay heavily to use its facilities. They should be able to use facilities they help pay for.

Letters to the Editor

Student wants right to have gun on campus

Editor,

I would like to comment on the editorial and campus comments that seem very biased against firearms on campus.

I must admit I haven't read the bill in its entirety, however, the gist is that firearms would be allowed on state-funded campuses in vehicles owned by drivers with concealed carry permits. This limits firearms to vehicles, not in dorm rooms, or on their person.

It is not illegal (against state or federal law) to have a firearm on campus, although it is against campus policy

which one gets a student expelled or without a criminal weapons charge for a non-student or repeat offender.

Currently permission can be received from the Chief of University Police to possess a firearm on campus. If someone who were up to no good wanted one it would happen anyway. The fact that someone with a firearm on campus and cannot be held accountable in the court system may enable someone to simply do the same at another school.

If this bill passes, it would define that only permit holders may have firearms in their vehicles, therefore everyone caught that does not have one can be prosecuted in a court of law. Before showing record that they

have committed a firearm-related violation, that cannot simply be covered by a FERPA law.

In summary this bill could be a compromise for both pro and anti-gun lobbies, it provides convenience for owners that live away from home who own large campus and

go to the Cove Ranch range. And it also allows campus authorities to pursue charges next to expulsion.

I understand this may seem like the wrong direction other tragic events such as the Virginia Tech shooting, but if

See LETTERS, page 4



ONLINE POLL

Do you think guns should be allowed on campus?

yes

12.5

no

87.5%

To cast your vote on this week's issue, go to www.trailblazeronline.net

Do you have an opinion? Let us know!

The Trail Blazer welcomes reader responses. Letters should be 400 words or less and signed. Addresses and telephone numbers should be included (for verification purposes only). Letters must be received in Room 317 Rockledge Hall or emailed to editor@trailblazeronline.net by 4 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication. The Trail Blazer reserves the right to edit letters for purposes of clarity, brevity and legal considerations.

Campus Comment

Do you approve of the dates selected for fall break?

President Andrews announced Jan. 23 that a fall break would be added to the calendar. The Trail Blazer asked students if they approve of the selected dates.



Teneia Wallington
Freshman Psychology
Greensboro, N.C.

"A break at any time is better than nothing."



Justin Stalkamp
Junior Music Education
Covington, Ky.

"Yes, every other school has one [in the fall] so it's nice."



Ben Florence
Freshman Technology Education
Bachman, Ky.

"Yes and no. I have a lot of stuff that goes on then, but I don't have a select date that I would prefer."



Megan Hood
Freshman Biology
Harrodsburg, Ky.

"Yes, because it's right after midterms."

Andrews warns against double-digit cuts



Testimony by President Wayne Andrews before the Kentucky House Budget Review Subcommittee on Education, January 31, 2008

Mr. Chairman, and members of the subcommittee, I am pleased to be here today, and to have this opportunity to tell you that we at Morehead State University are counting on you to help us continue serving the families of East Kentucky in the most effective manner possible.

First and foremost, I want you to know that I had not intended to come here with negative feelings about the proposed budget but that task became much more difficult Tuesday night.

I'm not here to blame anyone for the fiscal circumstances which confront our state in these difficult days, but I am here to protest higher education being ignored as a critical component of our state's economic engine and for higher education funding to be treated as part of the solution rather than part of the solution.

Today I ask if you really want to abandon our shared dream of raising Kentucky to national standards of economic prosperity by creating a world-class system of postsecondary education.

Throughout this decade of remarkable progress on all of our campuses, you, the members of the General Assembly, in the words of East Kentucky's own Jesse Stuart, have been the thread that runs so true.

Governors and institutional presidents come and go, but you have always been there as our champions, providing funds and enabling legislation to keep the dream alive.

You told us in 1997 to make higher education more accessible, to keep it affordable and improve quality so that together we could lift Kentucky from the lower

ranks of states in educational attainment, and even more importantly, to give our citizens the same chance as other Americans for a higher standard of living and a more secure future through better job opportunities.

And the record shows that Morehead State and our other public institutions responded by making substantial progress in enrolling and graduating more students, in providing more help to the public schools and our communities, and in building strong academic and research programs that are making Kentucky more competitive, not just with other states, but also with the world.

Today you have a different challenge, you won't be enhancing or expanding our efforts, you literally must decide if the dream is still viable, and, if the answer is yes, then to develop new state resources to keep us from sliding backward.

And you know we cannot afford to stand still because you can't stand and ever third world countries are driving forward.

We recognize that building a new state budget is serious business. All of us appreciate the fact that the General Assembly will make some hard choices in the days and weeks ahead.

We know about gut-wrenching decisions because we are facing a loss of nearly \$6 million.

And we certainly don't appreciate the statement that raising tuition is an easy option.

At our institution, tuition now represents nearly 50 percent of operating revenue, as you can see on the handout. If this budget stands, our students will pay a larger share than the state provides for the second straight year.

We try each day to operate efficiently so that we can keep our position as the state's best value value among the universities.

That is even more important when you consider that we have the highest percentage of students eligible for need-based financial aid such as Pell and CAP grants.

In fact, we have many students in that demographic

that almost 50 percent of our full-time students last year had their tuition paid by a grant or scholarship.

Is it easy to raise tuition for students, many of whom are already struggling to pay current rates? Absolutely not!

It is my firm belief that there is not a public university administrator in this nation, much less in this state, who could keep his or her institution academically effective or operationally efficient while giving up these large amounts of state funding.

Even before we were asked to take a reduction in our current budget, we were well into the process of re-evaluating all of our academic programs with the goal of eliminating those that are not relevant to the 21st century.

That would allow us to reallocate our resources to

“Is it easy to raise tuition for students, many of whom are already struggling to pay current rates? Absolutely not!”

- President Wayne Andrews

strengthen existing programs and add new ones as the global economy continues to change.

We also are re-engineering our degree requirements to make it more feasible for a student to earn a bachelor's degree in four years or less, thereby reducing costs for each student and family and for the institution, and ultimately the state.

We are reorganizing administrative units to reduce overhead expenses and to gain efficiencies in areas like student support services where more resources are needed to help students overcome academic deficiencies and be successful in today's academic environment.

We are giving special attention to the STEM initiative with enhancement of our space science program and the opening of our new molecular biology laboratory and the expansion of health science.

We are working with local

school districts in a program to improve high school math instruction by combining our faculty expertise with theirs.

The Kentucky Department of Education is supporting that effort with a three-year grant and we expect to dramatically increase the proficiency of those once considered at-risk in math.

No one told us to take that initiative. We did it because it needed to be done.

Our undergraduate research effort is paying handsome dividends as students work with key faculty in hands-on learning opportunities that previously existed only for graduate and professional students.

You will see some of those results today at the "Posters in the Capital" display. We will have 39 students and 22 faculty members participating.

We have developed a comprehensive business plan that gives us a detailed road map for achieving our strategic goals as part of the state's 2020 mandate.

We continue to be ranked in the Top 25 among public regional universities in the South by U.S. News and World Report.

We are committed to high quality in everything we do and I originally had planned to tell you that I did not intend to cut corners for the sake of fiscal expediency.

That pledge rings hollow here today as I contemplate the loss of millions of dollars and what it will mean to so many of our students who come to us under-prepared for college academically and financially.

My decision to accept the Morehead State University presidency was greatly influenced by the state's nationally-hailed commitment to improv-

ing postsecondary education.

Kentucky has become the model for similar reform efforts in several other states. We find ourselves being applauded instead of being snickered at in national higher education circles.

Our new governor has fulfilled his constitutional duty to bring an executive budget to the General Assembly.

Now it is your turn to meet your obligation to the citizens of Kentucky.

We don't believe the members of the General Assembly are anxious to go home and tell your constituents that Kentucky is going to turn back the clock by taking higher education funding back to the level it was in 1998.

If you cannot help us, our students will be facing fewer, but larger classes in fewer programs at fewer locations and at a higher cost with fewer services.

We have five regional campuses, more than any other institution, and they have become part of the fabric of our institutions and of the communities they serve.

We subsidize the operation of those regional campuses because we know how important it is to our students to have convenient and affordable access to higher education.

I don't have time to tell you about our success in online degree programs or our historic commitment of several million dollars each year to fund merit-based scholarships for the best and brightest and need-based scholarships for students whose families fall into that gap between the cost of attendance and their ability to pay.

In all fairness, there are a few positives in the proposed budget for Morehead State University. We would be able to replace the environmental controls on our central heating plant, not the entire plant, and we could proceed with a new student recreation center and more badly needed housing improvements. And we again are most appreciative of the House's support of the agency bond bill.

It is important for you to know that we are trying to help ourselves with other resources. Our external fund-

ing in terms of gifts, grants and contracts is at an all-time high. Our institutional endowment is approaching \$35 million and that is a 60-fold increase in about 12 years.

We are preparing for a capital giving campaign to raise millions more for scholarships, faculty chairs and other resources needed to become a truly great comprehensive, regional university.

In terms of the impact of losing 12 percent of our state general fund appropriation, we are planning for cuts in operating budgets, leaving vacant positions unfilled and postponing the replacement of worn out equipment.

Over the next several weeks, we will work with our staff to identify budget reduction strategies that will have the least negative impact on student success.

In so doing, we will be forced to consider the following:

- Reducing our institutional support of financial aid.
- Eliminating certain academic and outreach programs.
- Reducing student services.
- Re-evaluating employee benefits and compensation.
- Reducing our workforce.

References have been made of late to Kentucky being the next frontier.

We surely agree that innovation and imagination are requirements of the knowledge-based economy in our state, our nation and our world.

With that said, why would we want, even temporarily, to handicap those with the most potential for producing that intellectual capital?

I want you to know that we are proud of the fact that higher education and the General Assembly have always been committed to providing hope, and opportunity to the citizens of this great Commonwealth.

A better educated workforce in a vibrant economy is the heart of our shared dream for Kentucky.

Only you can determine if it has become our impossible dream.

Mr. Chairman, I am ready for your questions.

every year. They routinely inflict abuses on these animals that would likely result in criminal cruelty charges if the victims were dogs or cats.

Readers can learn more at humaneociety.org.

Erin Williams

Factory Farming Campaign
The Humane Society of the United States

Letters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

that shooter knew another student may have been armed, then he may have been deterred just a little, maybe he would not have been able to move across campus or enter more than one room, if allowing firearms on campus could save one life anywhere I would like to see someone call that a negative policy.

Writer says guns make campus safer

Editor,

I feel that guns should be allowed on campuses as long as the student had his or her concealed carry permit.

Because that is what it is for they just don't give them out you have to go through a background check. So yes as long as they had a permit I

think it is a good idea it would make campuses a lot safer.

Derrik Duff
Student

Opponent says factory farms pollute

Editor,

Thanks for featuring college

students' efforts to "green" their lifestyle, including making sustainable food choices ("It is easy being green," January 31).

Across the country, colleges and universities are offering more vegetarian foods, which are better for both the environment and animals. Factory farms pollute our air and water, and raising animals for food is at least as great of a global warming culprit as automobiles.

Factory farms also raise and kill billions of animals

CLASSIFIEDS

SUMMER JOB AT KENTUCKY 4-H CAMPS. Positions available as Camp Manager; EMT; lifeguards; and instructors for swimming, canoeing, nature, recreation, rifle, archery, and high and low ropes. Internships are available. Watch for our job postings on Top Jobs website at Career Services. Deadline for application is March 7th. For more information, visit our website at www.kentucky4h.org/camp and apply online at UK Jobs. Visit our booth at the Spring Job Fair on March 4th.

CLOTHING ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS by My Le Match. For prices an information please call: (606) 784-3271. Mon. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Located 1/2 mile from Wal-Mart Plaza.

Valentine's Day
THURSDAY, February 14th

Creative Touch Florist
784-1004

ORDER EARLY!!!
FREE DELIVERY
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14TH
TO "LIMITED" AREAS!!!

ALL FRESH AND BEAUTIFUL
GIRLS
ALLIFIED

Creative Touch Florist
US 40 Bypass (West of Social)
Phone: 606-784-1004
606-221-0397
creativetouchflorist.com

123 Campbell Ave.
Preston, KY 40370

Chi Omega Baby Owls

Spring 2008

Katy Jo Davis
Emily Jackson
Alexis King
Mary Williamson

CAMPUS LIFE

February 7, 2008
www.trailblazeronline.net
campuslife@trailblazeronline.net

What's that under the canopy by Lappin?

ALIXIS DUMON - MANAGING EDITOR

Before humans and animals developed in the Cenozoic period, before the ice age occurred during the Pleistocene period and before dinosaurs roamed the earth in the Mesozoic period, a tree-sized fern from the Paleozoic period grew in a nearby swamp. More than 315 million years later, its fossilized roots were discovered, uncovered, and placed on MSU's campus.

The roots, situated under a canopy near Lappin Hall, are lepidodendron roots, part of a stigmatopterid root system that fossilized in a tropical swamp on Laurel Creek in Elliot County.

Allen Lake, a retired MSU biology professor, was part of the team that brought the roots to campus.

The roots were discovered after a new road was built and exposed the stump. Lake said he was taking a new professor, James Chaplin, around the area to show him geological sites when they ran across the roots sticking out of the side of a riverbank. Chaplin recognized the roots and suggested digging them up.

Lake said they asked the landowner for permission and began excavation. It took two weeks to uncover a single tree root, but it was broken into 94 different pieces. The profes-

sors drew a map of the whole root system, and then tagged and labeled each part to document where root belonged in the system.

Near the end of excavation, which they worked on several weeks, biology professor Woodrow Barber joined the group. Barber said the roots were embedded in a hard shell, and they had to use a pick to chisel out the pieces.

"It was our last day of work, and some guys drove by and saw what we were doing," Barber said. "One of them told us if we didn't get it out that day, he was going to use dynamite and blow it out. We believed him, and got it out that day."

The center section of the root weighs more than 300 pounds, which became worrisome and difficult for the workers, Lake said. It took three to four people just to load the center section into a truck, and once they returned to campus, many students had to help unload the pieces.

Lake said trees existing today did not exist during the Paleozoic period, but ferns grew in tree-sized dimensions, and are very primitive trees. The root system displayed on campus is characteristic of that period because of the way the roots branch.



Photo by Curtis Berger

Fossilized tree roots estimated to be more than 315 million years old were moved from inside Lappin to an outside location about 10 years ago.

"Each time a branch splits, it splits in two equal parts," Lake said. "Regular trees branch off in all directions, but these ferns have dichotomous branching."

Lake said the root system is unique because it grew before dinosaurs existed on the earth. He said after bringing the pieces to campus, saving the root became a work in progress.

"It took me several years to get all the pieces put back in

order and set up inside Lappin Hall," Lake said. "The building was an ideal place for it. It sat against a wall, and around it I painted a mural that was 50 feet long, 3 feet off the ground and all the way up to the ceiling. It took me several years to finish."

Lake said he divided the 50 feet of the mural into inches, which equals 600 inches. He made each inch equal to one million years in time; and then painted a sequence of organ-

isms that were dominant during each segment. To represent the most recent time, Lake painted Barber to represent humans.

"[Lake] worked really hard on the mural," Barber said. "I was honored to be in it." When Lappin was renovated about 10 years ago, the tree root system was moved outside, Lake said. Of the original 94 pieces, only 32 pieces are represented outside, the other 62 pieces were lost. Since

then, some pieces have been stolen from the exhibit.

A canopy was eventually built to protect the fossil from rain and snow, so now it is only affected by the temperature, he said.

Lake said the mural inside Lappin was painted over.

"I never thought to take a picture of the mural," he said. "I would have had to take six to seven pictures just to get the whole thing."

Barber said there are still many systems located in Laurel Creek where the root was found.

"We only excavated one, because we only wanted one," Barber said. "I think the root system is educational. [Lake] did a good job with the mural and the system."

Barbara Holbrook, a student at MSU, said she had always thought the root system was a stump, and did not know where it came from.

"Students at MSU should be more proud of it," Barber said.

"We have an ancient artifact right here on campus, not just a stump," Lake said. He feels the root system represents part of his time spent at MSU.

"It's like one of my children," he said. "I think it's important because it's twice as old as dinosaurs. People think dinosaurs go way back, and those roots go back twice as long."

Get a job or more education? It might depend on objectives

HEATHER WEBB - STAFF WRITER

The job search is the next step after graduation for some students, but for others - what lies ahead?

Julia Hawkins, MSU Career Services Director, said students should research what employers are looking for.

Many employers look at internships as a "feeder-system" for future employees, Hawkins said. Many times, employers want people with experience - not education. The experience also will aid in obtaining a master's degree if it is required.

"A lot of companies will pay you for school if they deem it important," Hawkins said.

Whether students should plan on going into the field or into a master's program after graduation depends on the individual, the industry and the company, Hawkins said.

Hawkins advises students to talk to Career Services and look at national salaries to determine if a master's degree provides a higher salary in a certain field. Networking with people in the field and joining professional organizations educates students by letting them know first-hand what they need for the job.

Internships help people see if that line of work is for them, Hawkins said. It may be better to try out the job first before pouring in the money and time required to get a master's degree.

"Experimental education is vital," Hawkins said.

Tiffany Tuttle, a 2007 graduate of MSU with a bachelor's degree in social work, said she plans to wait a year or two before applying for the master's program because it is pre-

ferred by Butler County Children's Services.

Tuttle said her office has a master's program for their employees in which they will reimburse at least the partial cost of obtaining the degree. The company offers flexible schedules for the workers who are in the master's program, so workers can get in hours while finishing their education.

Brett Richardson, human services director of Butler County Children's Services,

said people who build up work experience before getting their master's have a better understanding of the work.

Richardson said if students complete internships before they get bachelor's degrees, they may be ready for a master's program immediately after graduation, but most can gain by putting in some work experience before taking their education to the next level.

Richardson said she built up work experience and then

entered the master's program, which helped her to understand the material better.

Hawkins said, though obtaining a master's degree will raise salaries in many fields, experience and performance is usually what will increase salaries. Students must do research to find out what they and their future employers want before deciding when and if they should go to graduate school.

Campus Calendar

Feb. 7
Faculty Senate Meeting
ADUC
4:10 p.m.

Art Exhibit: Self-Evident:
Contemporary Exploration
of Self-Portraiture
Claypool-Young Art
Building, Main Gallery

Feb. 8
School Spirit Friday

Feb. 9
Rifle, Ohio Valley
Conference championships
Buttler Rifle Range
8 a.m.

Feb. 11
Last day to withdraw with
grade of "W"

Last day for 25% credit of

creditable fees

Feb. 12
An Evening with Crystal
Wilkinson, Water Street
Reading
Camden-Carroll Library
7 p.m.

Feb. 13
Sizzlin' Night
Laughlin Health Building
10 p.m.

Feb. 14
Valentine's Day

50th Annual Concert Band
Clinic: MSU Concert Band
Concert
Buttler Auditorium
7:30 p.m.



34.99
per month

BREAK FREE FROM THE WIRES
WITH WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE FROM megawifi

megawifi
(606)-783-1479

**No phone line
or cable TV
required**

411 Flemingsburg Rd. Morehead KY 40351 (Beside Penn Station)

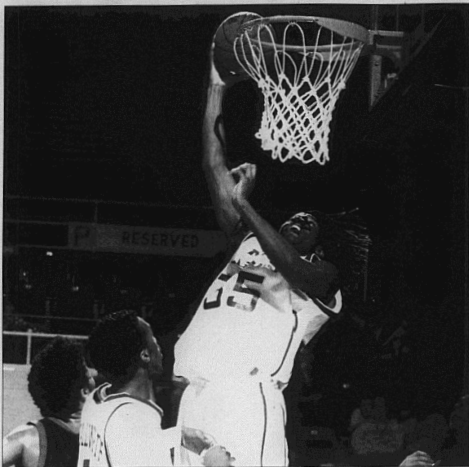


Photo by Carlo Angerer

Kenneth Faried scores two points on a dunk against Kentucky Christian University at home

Eagles tie 30-year record

Men's basketball continues home winning streak; younger players show lack of experience

CARLO ANGERER — Sports Editor

The men's basketball team continued its home-court success story with a 88-66 win Saturday night. In a non-conference game against the Kentucky Christian University Knights. But the game also highlighted MSU's lack of experience from the bench.

The nine-in-a-row home win makes this the best start ever in Johnson Arena, which opened for the 1981-82 season.

The win also ties the nine-in-a-row start by the 1972-73 Eagles. Only MSU's NCAA tournament team from 1956-57 had a better at-home season start with 13 consecutive wins.

Though enjoyable for fans, the win against KCU was no surprise to most, who considered the Knights a significant underdog.

"It is the time of year, where you get away from conference play," MSU head coach Donnie Tyndall said. "It was one of the games you are expected to win."

The Eagles started slowly, allowing the small university from Grayson to score the first points on a three-pointer by Akeem Scott just 37 seconds into the game.

That woke up the Eagles. MSU Freshman Kenneth Faried scored on a lay-up one minute into the game for two points. He followed four more points with two free throws and a dunk to put MSU

ahead 6-3. The Eagles never relinquished their lead the rest of the game.

MSU was up 24 points with 17:25 left in the second half when the coaching staff decided to give the younger players a chance — those who hardly get on the court during OVC games. The Eagles

"It's always hard to play against teams like this."

— Les Simmons
MSU Basketball Junior

struggled to keep up the fast-passing game they had presented against OVC opponents like Tennessee Tech. When KCU's game turned desperate, as the Knights realized they could not win, the Eagles' play turned sloppy.

KCU seemed to have no system and MSU showed no system playing against no system.

Junior Les Simmons, who led the team with a career-high 19 points, said, "It's always hard to play against teams like this, especially when everybody expects you to come out on top."

Tyndall admitted his young players were green.

"Especially in cases like Les — who haven't played in conference games a lot this year — they had some jitters," Tyndall said.

In the end MSU came out on top because of better shooting and a strong, physical defense.

"We switched [the defense], so they couldn't run their pattern on the offense," Tyndall said.

He admits his team played less-confident when he took experienced players like Nikola Stojakovic off the court.

"Nick makes our team go," Tyndall said, adding he was satisfied with how Demonte Harper, who had eight assists, filled the point-guard position.

"Demonte Harper is still a freshman, but he is going to be a really good player," Tyndall said.

Other freshmen also showed what they could do and what they need to work on. With 6:14 left in the first half John Lamb got a defensive rebound, but let KCU's Kalen Jones take the ball out of his hands. But Lamb made up for it seconds later, scoring two on a jumper.

Tonight the Eagles have a chance to continue building their legacy and getting past the 1972-73 record with a win against Southeast Missouri.

Eagle of the Week

CARLO ANGERER — Sports Editor

The MSU men's basketball team has its best start at home in more than three decades. At the core of this year's success is point guard Nikola Stojakovic, the Trail Blazer's pick for Eagle of the Week.

The Senior has taken on great responsibilities as a team leader on the court. Stojakovic drives the ball down the court quickly and sets up the passing plays that help his teammates score — and win.

During the home game against Tennessee Tech on Jan. 29 he had four two-pointers. This might not sound all that great, but when factoring in his assists — 14 assists out of a team-total of 20 — it becomes clear that Stojakovic is an integral part of the Eagles' success.

Against Kentucky Christian University during Saturday night's game in Johnson Arena Stojakovic only had eight points — but spent most of the game on the bench. Head Coach Donnie Tyndall had decided to give younger players a chance for game experience during the non-conference game.

But without Stojakovic the Eagles lacked the organization and coordination they showed against Tennessee Tech. Freshman Demonte Harper had "big shoes to fill," as teammate John Lamb put it. Coach Tyndall is proud of Stojakovic, calling him the best point guard in the OVC right now.

Originally from Serbia, Stojakovic is stepping up in his senior year, a good way to recommend himself for a professional career after leaving Morehead State.

In the next OVC games he has to prove he can handle the pressure. That will get tougher on the home court with Southeast Missouri and Murray State visiting this week.

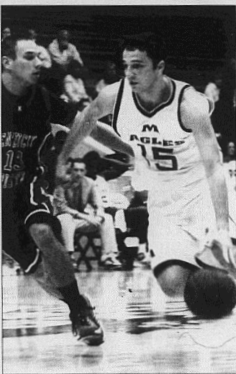


Photo by Carlo Angerer

MSU point guard Nikola Stojakovic dribbles past KCU's Matt Hackenberg.

What is the students' problem?

From the Sports Desk

CARLO ANGERER — Sports Editor



Just wanted to let everybody know — tonight there are two basketball games in Johnson Arena. The Morehead State women's and men's teams are taking on Southeast Missouri.

It is a shame that in the last weeks turnout by students was as low as it was. Around 2,500 students live on campus, so Johnson Arena is just a few minutes by foot from students' dorm rooms.

So why are the students not coming out when they have to give every basketball fan an entrance fee?

The Student Activities Council gives away gift baskets, they get free T-shirts and with their student I.D. they don't pay

Most importantly, this basketball season Morehead State has the best ingredient for a great time in the stands — two exciting teams on the home court.

The women's basketball team has had rough times, looking at their 7-14 record, but when they step onto the court, they always give 100 percent and everybody can see that.

The 9-0 at-home record for the men speaks for itself. And the reason to see great basketball — Kenneth Faried dunking the ball, John Lamb scoring three-pointers... So why stay in the dorm?



Photo by Carlo Angerer

KCU's Eric McKee (4) tries to get past the Eagle defenders John Lamb (25) and Leon Buchanan (33).

Virginia outscores MSU women by double digits

CARLO ANGERER — Sports Editor

The Morehead State Women's basketball team fell against Virginia 88-43 during a non-conference game. The Lady Eagles travelled to Charlottesville, Va., Monday night to face the Cavaliers.

"Virginia is a great team, and this game was what it was," MSU head coach Mike Bradbury said in a press release. "We really just couldn't keep up with them."

MSU was able to keep the game close in the beginning. With 13:27 left in the first half the team led 14-13 over Virginia. The Cavaliers then turned up the heat and led 48-26 by halftime.

MSU sophomore Brandi Rayburn led the Eagles in

scoring with a career-high 17 points.

"I thought Brandi had a great game, and Anitha [Smith-Williams] and Brittany [Pittman] did about all they could," Bradbury said. "I am actually pretty happy with our rebounding effort. I thought we might not get any, but I was happy we were able to get 25 tonight."

The Lady Eagles return to OVC play tonight at 5:15 p.m. in Johnson Arena.

They will face Southeast Missouri, who they lost to 58-66 on Jan. 24.

With the loss against Virginia Morehead State fell to 7-14 overall.

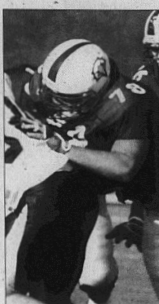


Photo by Carlo Angerer

MSU players, from left, David Hyland, Bryan Gray and Grant Jennings have been named All-American.

Football Eagles named All-American

KORIN ELLIS — Staff Writer

An array of individual goals and feats, along with an intense off-season work ethic led MSU's football players David Hyland, Grant Jennings and Bryan Gray to earn a spot on the 2007 Sports Network Mid-Major and Independent All-America Team.

As a junior, Hyland had huge aspirations.

"I wanted to come in this year and lead the country in interceptions," Hyland said. "I achieved that goal and it felt great."

Not only did Hyland lead the country in interceptions, with nine in eight games, he also holds the MSU school record for interceptions in a single game with three, and 17 interceptions in a career with still one full season left to play. With 33 tackles, and an astonishing 11 pass break-ups Hyland's numbers speak for themselves.

Senior defender back Bryan Gray also racked up numbers that far exceeded his expectations coming into his senior season. Six interceptions in 11 starts put him among some of the national leaders in interceptions.

Along with Hyland, Gray also holds the MSU school record of three interceptions in a single game. He finished his

final season with 25 total tackles and one pass break-up.

Now Gray has started looking forward to new goals and ambitions.

"I want to get into coaching and teach what I know," Gray said. "I would like to stay around the sport."

Offensive lineman and MSU graduate Grant Jennings started playing football in middle school and fell in love with the sport shortly after. Jennings is said to have anchored the entire offensive line from the left tackle spot.

The term All-American is not a new one to Jennings, who was recognized in 2005 and also chosen as a first team All-American by College Football Gazette. He led the MSU line to an average 25.5 points, 144.1 rushing yards, 197.1 passing yards and to finish with an impressive 341.2 yards in total offense last season.

Both Gray and Jennings came into their last season with a stronger mind set, and having trained differently than in prior years.

"I always want to work out harder than I think my opponent is," Gray said. He paid a fainer this past summer to help him prepare for his last opportunities as a competitor.

"I worked harder than I think I have ever worked," Gray said.

For Gray it was a chance to prove himself during his senior year to people who doubted him. For Jennings, it was the chance to lead his team to a championship.

This is what Jennings had his mind set on this past summer when lifting and conditioning harder than in previous years. "I chose MSU because it had a good tradition," Jennings said. "I wanted to be part of the tradition."

For Hyland it may be different, with one more year ahead. His goals may change, but the strong work ethic will not die.

"I want to work on getting fast and stronger with the help of my teammates," Hyland said. "I want to win a championship next year together as a unit."

Hopes are high for the season to come with players looking forward to setting new records and getting better than last season's team.

"I wouldn't change a thing," says Jennings, who celebrated his last season as a "great ride."

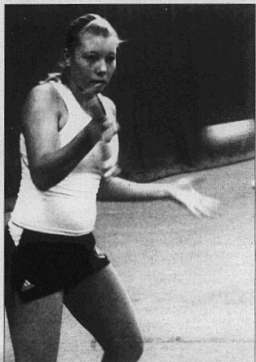


Photo by Carlo Angerer

MSU Freshman Alexandra Rydberg defeated Bellarmine's Sarah Roebker 6-3, 6-3 on Saturday.

Finally, wins for tennis teams against Bellarmine

CARLO ANGERER — Sports Editor

After a rough start in the spring season the MSU women's and men's tennis team finally got a win. During last weekend's success at home against Bellarmine both teams won 6-1.

In the No. 1 slot in singles play MSU freshman Alexandra Rydberg defeated Sarah Roebker 6-3, 6-3.

Morehead State's Abby Showalter won against Madeline Antero 6-3, 7-5 in the No. 2 slot.

"Bellarmine was a gritty hard-fighting team," MSU coach Kevin Fulton said in a press release. "We need to

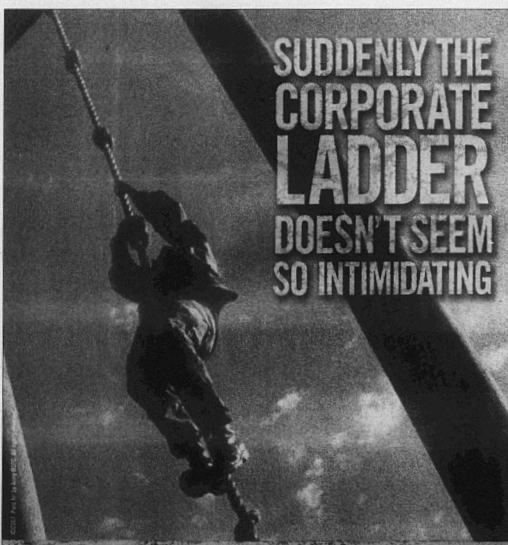
realize that it's about the process and not just the product. We are young and have to learn that you don't win by just showing up."

For the men's team Greg Johnstone posted a doubles and singles win in the match.

Eagle Dusan Milovanovic won 6-4, 6-2 over Nathan Matthews.

"Greg came out hot and gave us the intensity we've been wanting," Fulton said. "I thought Milovanovic gave us a key win to seal the match."

The men's team will host West Virginia State on Friday at 3 p.m.



MASSAGE THERAPY

Various Techniques Available

- Neuromuscular
- Swedish
- Sports
- Myofascial
- Deep Tissue

www.spurlockspinecentre.com

784.1115 • 1.800.318.4444

1350 Flemingsburg Road, Morehead

Donelle Barry, L.M.S.T.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE WITH NECK OR BACK PAIN

SPURLOCK CHIROPRACTIC CENTRE

21ST Anniversary

www.spurlockspinecentre.com

784.1115 • 1.800.318.4444

1350 Flemingsburg Rd. • Morehead, KY

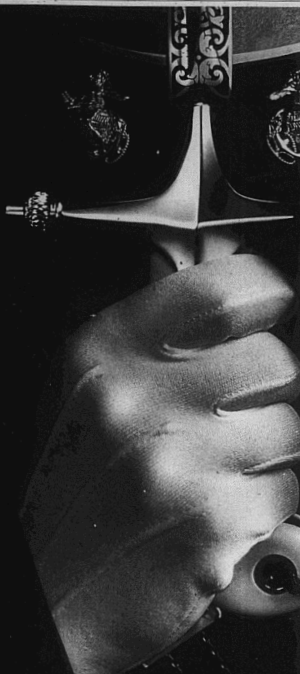
© Michael Spurlock, D.C.

Register for an elective that will give you the confidence and experience needed to become a leader. The Army ROTC gives you the leadership skills you need to graduate as a Lieutenant, an Officer in the U.S. Army.

ENROLL IN ARMY ROTC
BECOME AN ARMY OFFICER



FOR INFORMATION ON RECEIVING AN ARMY ROTC SCHOLARSHIP CALL 783-5256



AS AN AMERICAN

YOU CAN MAKE A COMMITMENT.

FULFILL A COMMITMENT.

BREAK A COMMITMENT.

THERE ARE BIG COMMITMENTS.

SMALL COMMITMENTS.

COMMITMENTS YOU NEVER

WANTED TO MAKE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

YOU CAN EITHER FEAR COMMITMENT

OR EMBRACE IT.

AS AN AMERICAN AND
A MARINE CORPS OFFICER

YOUR COMMITMENT WILL IMPACT

THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION.

FEW CAN BE MARINES.
EVEN FEWER CAN LEAD THEM.
CAN YOU?



MARINEOFFICER.COM